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211005Z Feb 01

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	CTME-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	BBG-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8256
INFO NSC WASHDC
DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 000782

SIPDIS

ILAB FOR RSHEPHARD
LONDON FOR CGURNEY
PARIS FOR BWILLIAMS
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER
PASS USAID FOR AFR/SD - DWELLER, AFR/SA - CPALMA,
NNEWMAN, AA/AFR

E.O. 12958: DECL 02/21/11
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TAGS: [ELAB](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE OF ZIMBABWE LABOR
FEDERATION HINGES ON UPCOMING CONGRESS

REFS: A. HARARE 661, B. HARARE 612, C. HARARE 573,

[1](#)D. 00 HARARE 3680

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D' AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR
REASONS 1.5 (B/D).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: THE CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE OF THE ZIMBABWE CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ZCTU) FROM THE RULING ZANU-PF PARTY, AND ITS SUPPORT FOR THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (MDC), HINGES ON THE UPCOMING CONGRESS, ACCORDING TO SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE UMBRELLA LABOR ORGANIZATION. ZANU-PF IS ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO BUY THE ELECTION OF A FRIENDLY LABOR FEDERATION LEADERSHIP BY PAYING UNIONS' BACK DUES TO THE ZCTU. THE SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS WILL LIKELY DEPEND ON WHETHER THE PRO-MDC FORCES WITHIN THE ZCTU ARE ABLE TO PRESENT A UNIFIED SLATE OF CANDIDATES TO OPPOSE THOSE BELIEVED TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO ZANU-PF. THE OUTCOME OF THIS STRUGGLE WILL BE CRITICAL FOR THE FUTURE VIABILITY OF THE MDC AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY, AND ITS CANDIDATE'S CHANCES IN THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (C) ON FEBRUARY 14 AND 15 LABOFF MET, RESPECTIVELY, WITH GIFT CHIMANIKIRE AND ISAAC MATONGO TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING ZCTU CONGRESS, WHICH WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 23-24 IN MASVINGO. CHIMANIKIRE IS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-
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GENERAL OF THE MDC, A MEMBER OF THE ZCTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE 7,000-MEMBER STRONG ZIMBABWE POST AND TELECOMMUNICATION WORKERS UNION, ONE OF THE ZCTU'S LARGER AND MORE INFLUENTIAL UNIONS. MATONGO IS THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE ZCTU AND NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE MDC. BOTH MEN ARE KEY MEMBERS OF THE MDC LEADERSHIP, AS WELL AS INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN ZIMBABWE, AND PLAYED CENTRAL ROLES IN THE ZCTU'S DECISION TO FORM THE MDC IN 1998.

THE ZCTU'S INDEPENDENCE DEPENDS ON CONGRESS OUTCOME

[1](#)3. (C) CHIMANIKIRE AND MATONGO WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT THAT THE FEBRUARY CONGRESS WILL BE CRUCIAL IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE ZCTU REMAINS A TRULY INDEPENDENT LABOR FEDERATION OR IS COOPTED BY ZANU-PF. MATONGO TOLD LABOFF THAT ZANU-PF WAS INDEED PAYING AFFILIATED UNIONS' DUES ARREARAGES TO THE ZCTU IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THEIR

VOTES AT THE UPCOMING CONGRESS. HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS TACTIC WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN INFLUENCING THE VOTES OF MOST OF THE UNIONS' REPRESENTATIVES BECAUSE THEY AND THEIR MEMBERSHIPS REMAIN OVERWHELMINGLY PRO-MDC. CHIMANIKIRE STATED THAT AT LEAST TWO UNION LEADERS ARE PLANNING TO REVEAL AT THE CONGRESS THAT ZANU-PF HAD PAID THEIR UNION'S BACK DUES.

A UNIFIED PRO-ZANU-PF SLATE OF CANDIDATES

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14. (C) ACCORDING TO CHIMANIKIRE AND MATONGO, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ZCTU, ISIDORE ZINDOGA, IS A ZANU-PF PARTISAN. ZINDOGA, THEY SAID, WAS AGAINST ZCTU STAYAWAYS THAT PROTESTED GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE (GOZ) POLICIES, AND OPPOSED THE FORMATION OF THE MDC. IN ADDITION, HE HAS TRAVELED WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE ON TRIPS OVERSEAS WITHOUT INFORMING THE ZCTU GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE REASON FOR THESE TRIPS. MOST RECENTLY, HE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO A TRIPARTITE SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH THE GOZ AND BUSINESS WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE ZCTU GENERAL COUNCIL. ON FEBRUARY 10 THE ZCTU GENERAL COUNCIL ANNULLED THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ZINDOGA SIGNED. CHIMANIKIRE MENTIONED THE WIDELY REPORTED SUSPICION THAT ZINDOGA IS AN OPERATIVE OF THE GOZ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (CIO), BUT OFFERED LITTLE EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM. BOTH STATED THAT IF ZINDOGA IS ELECTED TO HIS CURRENT POSITION, HE WOULD SEEK TO SEVER ALL INFORMAL LINKAGES BETWEEN THE ZCTU AND THE MDC AND PREVENT ITS SUPPORTING THE MDC IN ANY MANNER. MATONGO ADDED THAT ZINDOGA IS THE HEAD OF A UNIFIED SLATE OF PRO-ZANU-PF CANDIDATES THAT WILL BE NOMINATED AT THE CONGRESS BY THEIR SUPPORTERS.

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FEDERATION HINGES ON UPCOMING CONGRESS

WILL THE PRO-MDC FORCES UNIFY BEHIND CANDIDATES?

15. (C) CHIMANIKIRE AND MATONGO WERE BOTH ADAMANT THAT THE UNIONS AND THEIR MEMBERSHIPS REMAIN OVERWHELMINGLY PRO-MDC. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF THE PRO-MDC FORCES AT THE CONGRESS DID NOT UNIFY BEHIND A SINGLE SLATE OF CANDIDATES, ZINDOGA AND THE PRO-ZANU-PF SLATE COULD END UP BEING ELECTED. CHIMANIKIRE AND MATONGO SAID A NUMBER OF QUALIFIED PRO-MDC UNION LEADERS FEEL IT IS THEIR TIME TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE ZCTU, COMPLICATING AGREEMENT

ON A SINGLE SLATE. THERE ARE THREE SUCH CANDIDATES FOR EACH OF THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN THE ZCTU: SECRETARY-GENERAL AND PRESIDENT. CHIMANIKIRE AND

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MATONGO BOTH STATED THAT THE MDC WAS WORKING AGGRESSIVELY BEHIND THE SCENES, THROUGH PERSONAL MEETINGS AND TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE DIFFERENT CANDIDATES, TO SECURE AGREEMENT ON A SINGLE PRO-MDC SLATE. MATONGO WAS CONFIDENT THAT SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED BEFORE THE CONGRESS BEGINS, WHEREAS CHIMANIKIRE BELIEVED THAT THE HORSE-TRADING INVOLVED MAY MEAN THAT AGREEMENT WILL ONLY BE REACHED AT THE CONGRESS. BOTH MEN AGREED THAT IF THE PRO-MDC FORCES PRESENT A UNIFIED SLATE, THEY WILL BE ELECTED BY A LANDSLIDE.

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THE DIRECTION OF THE ZCTU AFTER THE CONGRESS

16. (C) IF THE PRO-ZANU-PF CANDIDATES ARE ELECTED, CHIMANIKIRE AND MATONGO DOUBT THAT ZINDOGA WILL MAKE A PUBLIC BREAK FROM THE MDC AND DECLARE THE ZCTU'S ALLEGIANCE TO ZANU-PF. RATHER, THEY BELIEVE HIS STRATEGY WILL BE TO PREVENT THE ZCTU FROM UNDERTAKING ANY ACTIVITIES THAT HE BELIEVES WILL AID THE MDC, SUCH AS UNION EFFORTS AT VOTER REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WILL OPPOSE STAYAWAYS AND OTHER ACTIONS PERCEIVED TO BE DIRECTED AT HARMING THE GOZ AND ZANU-PF. HE WILL ALSO LIKELY PURSUE A SOCIAL CONTRACT THAT THE GOZ AND ZANU-PF CAN TOUT AS A GREAT ADVANCE FOR WORKERS' INTERESTS.

17. (C) CHIMANIKIRE AND MATONGO WERE CLEAR ON WHAT WILL OCCUR IF PRO-MDC CANDIDATES ARE ELECTED AT THE CONGRESS. THE ZCTU LEADERSHIP WILL DECLARE THAT IT IS FORMALLY INDEPENDENT AND AUTONOMOUS OF THE MDC, BUT IT WILL ALSO STATE THAT THE LABOR FEDERATION CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE MDC. IN RECOGNITION OF ITS ROLE IN THE FORMATION OF AND CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE MDC, IT WILL ASK THE MDC TO ESTABLISH A FORMAL QUOTA WHEREBY ONE QUARTER OF THE MDC'S CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENT WOULD BE WORKERS. THE ZCTU WILL ALSO AID THE MDC'S ELECTION STRATEGY BY ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS VOTER REGISTRATION, VOTER EDUCATION, GETTING OUT THE VOTE, AND TRAINING OF ELECTION OBSERVERS. THESE STEPS WILL ENHANCE THE CHANCES OF THE MDC CANDIDATE IN THE UPCOMING
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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

18. (C) COMMENT: THE UPCOMING ZCTU CONGRESS REMAINS A CRITICAL EVENT IN ZIMBABWEAN POLITICS. PRESIDENT MUGABE AND ZANU-PF WOULD CLEARLY LIKE TO CUT INTO ORGANIZED LABOR'S SUPPORT FOR THE MDC, AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO DO THIS WOULD BE TO SEVER THE INFORMAL CONNECTIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE ZCTU AND THE MDC. FOR THE MDC, MAINTAINING THE ZCTU'S SUPPORT IS CRITICAL TO BOTH ITS CONTINUED EXISTENCE AS A VIABLE POLITICAL PARTY, AS WELL AS ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S CHANCES IN 2002. IF THE PRO-MDC FORCES ARE ABLE TO PRESENT A UNIFIED SLATE OF CANDIDATES, WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT THEY WILL BE ELECTED, AND THE ZCTU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE MDC. IF THEY CANNOT UNIFY BEFORE THE VOTE AT THE CONGRESS, MUGABE AND ZANU-PF ARE LIKELY TO SUCCEED AT BUYING THE ELECTION OF PRO-ZANU-PF CANDIDATES. SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD GREATLY HINDER THE MDC'S CHANCES IN THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. END COMMENT.

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